

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims supersedes all prior listing of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing distributed switching of data among a plurality of source modules and a plurality of destination modules, the method comprising:
 - receiving, by a source module of the plurality of source modules, data to be transferred;
 - broadcasting, by the source module, the data ~~to be transferred~~ to each destination module of a plurality of destination modules via a data link associated with ~~the~~ each destination module and an inbound time slot of a plurality of inbound time slots;
 - receiving, by each destination module of the plurality of destination modules, the data;
 - selecting, by a controller uncoupled from the data link, a destination module of the plurality of destination modules to process the data, wherein the destination module is selected without employing the data link;
 - ~~informing~~ identifying, by the controller, to the selected destination module, ~~of the~~ inbound time slot of the plurality of inbound time slots; and
 - ~~receiving, by the selected destination module, the broadcast data via the inbound time slot; and~~
 - processing, by only the selected destination module, the broadcast data based on the identified time slot.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining a source module of the plurality of source modules that receives the data;
 - and
 - determining an inbound time slot of a plurality of inbound time slots in which the source module will broadcast the data.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining an inbound time slot comprises determining an inbound time slot of a plurality of inbound time slots in which the source module will broadcast the data based on a time slot in which the source module receives the data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the source module and the inbound time slot are determined in response to a set up of a call.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of source modules and the plurality of destination modules are implemented in a transcoder.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each source module of the plurality of source modules comprises an interface board, each destination module of the plurality of destination modules comprises a voice processing function, and the data comprises voice data.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - allocating an outbound time slot for use in transferring outbound data from the selected destination module to the source module;
 - tagging the data to produce tagged data;
 - embedding, by the selected destination module, the tagged data in the allocated outbound time slot; and
 - transferring the tagged data to the source module in the allocated outbound time slot.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
 - receiving the tagged data by the source module;
 - determining, by the source module and based on the tag, that the data in the allocated outbound time slot is to be forwarded;
 - forwarding the data by the source module.
9. (Currently amended) A distributed switching system comprising:
 - ~~a plurality of destination modules,~~
 - a plurality of source modules, wherein each source module of the plurality of source modules is coupled by a data link of a plurality of data links to each destination module of a ~~the~~ plurality of destination modules and wherein each source module, upon receiving data from a

data source, broadcasts the data via a data link of the plurality of data links and an associated time slot to each destination module of the plurality of destination modules; ~~and~~

a controller, uncoupled from the data link, coupled to each destination module of the plurality of destination modules, wherein the controller, in response to a set up of a call, selects a destination module of the plurality of destination modules for a processing of call data and conveys to the selected destination module information concerning a data link and a time slot via which the call data will be broadcast; and

the plurality of destination modules, wherein each destination module of the plurality of destination modules receives the broadcast data and wherein only the selected destination module of the plurality of destination modules processes the data, based on the information concerning the time slot via which the call data will be broadcast.

10. (Original) The switching system of claim 9, wherein the selected destination module processes the broadcast data based on the time slot and data link information provided by the call controller.

11. (Original) The switching system of claim 9, wherein the call controller further determines a source module of the plurality of source modules that receives data coming into the switching system and determines a time slot of a plurality of time slots in which the source module will broadcast the received data.

12. (Original) The switching system of claim 11, wherein the call controller determines a time slot of a plurality of time slots in which the source module will broadcast the received data based on a time slot in which the source module receives the data.

13. (Original) The switching system of claim 9, wherein the switching system is implemented in a transcoder.

14. (Original) The switching system of claim 13, wherein each source module of the plurality of source modules comprises an interface board and each destination module of the plurality of destination modules comprises a voice processing function.

15. (Original) The switching system of claim 9, wherein the call controller further determines the data link and informs the destination module of the designated data link.
16. (Currently Amended) The switching system of claim 15, wherein the call controller determines the data link and further determines the time slot in response to a the set up of a call.
17. (Original) The switching system of claim 9, wherein the call controller further allocates at least one an outbound time slot, for use in transferring outbound data from the selected destination module to the source module.
18. (Original) The switching system of claim 17, wherein the selected destination module further tags data to produce tagged data, embeds the tagged data in the allocated outbound time slot, and transfers the tagged data to the source module in the allocated outbound time slot.
19. (Original) The switching system of claim 18, wherein the source module further receives the tagged data, determines, based on the tag, that the data in the allocated outbound time slot is to be forwarded, and forwards the data in the allocated outbound time slot.
20. (Currently Amended) A distributed switching system comprising:
 - a source module that broadcasts data to each destination module of a plurality of destination modules via a data link associated with each destination module; and
 - a selected destination module of the plurality of destination modules that applies a tag to data to be conveyed by the selected destination module to the source module to produce tagged data, conveys the tagged data in a time slot of a plurality of time slots to the source module, ~~and~~ wherein the tag is not an address and indicates that the data included in the time slot is to be forwarded by the source module; and wherein the destination module is selected by ~~the~~ a controller uncoupled from the switching system.
21. (Currently Amended) The distributed switching system of claim 20, further comprising a controller coupled to the selected destination module that informs the selected destination

module of the time slot of the plurality of time slots to use to conveying the data to the source module.

22. (Original) The distributed switching system of claim 20, wherein the source module further receives the tagged data, determines, based on the tag, that the data in the allocated outbound time slot is to be forwarded, and forwards the data in the allocated outbound time slot.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for providing distributed switching of data among a plurality of source modules and a plurality of destination modules, the method comprising:

determining a source module that broadcasts data to a plurality of destination modules via a data link associated with each destination module of the plurality of destination modules;

selecting, by a controller uncoupled from the data links, a destination module from among the plurality of destination modules;

allocating, by ~~a~~ the controller, a time slot for a conveyance of data by the source module to from the selected destination module ~~to the source module~~;

~~tagging~~ applying a tag to the data to produce tagged data, wherein the tag is not an address and indicates that the data included in the time slot is to be forwarded by the source module;

embedding, by the selected destination module, the tagged data in the allocated time slot; and

transferring the tagged data to the source module in the allocated time slot.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

receiving the tagged data by the source module;

determining, by the source module and based on the tag, that the data in the allocated time slot is to be forwarded; and

forwarding the data by the source module.